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A LETTER

The following letter, which I have been compelled to have reprinted in the Society's Journal, instead of using the pages of the Society's Journal, which hitherto have always been unreservedly open, even to the barefaced Member of the Society.

On the 11th instant I made a respectful application to the Council, through the Secretary, to be permitted to publish a statement in the Journal, with a view to justify to the Members of the Society the steps I had taken with reference to the proceedings of the Council. To this request I received the following reply:—

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

Your request made to the Council through the Secretary to be allowed to insert in the Society's Journal a letter, explanatory of your resignation, has been submitted to the Council, and I am directed to transmit to you in reply the following resolution of Council:—

"That while the Council has no desire to prevent the Society from publishing in the Society's Journal any explanation of its opinions as to any matter which is brought before the public for consideration, it is not its duty to publish any statement which the Council deems it is not its duty to publish, and which may tend to the injury of the Society and its members."

REV. J. BOOTH, LL.D., F.R.S.,

Late Chairman of the Council.

CHARLES CRITCHETT

Assistant Secretary.

The Hon. Secy. of the Socy. of Arts,
The Victoria Warehouse.

As I am not prepared to submit the "manuscript" of my opinions, containing an "explanation" of my opinions, to the Society, I am directed to the Secretary to publish the following statement in the Society's Journal.

LONDON:

1857.

Historical Society
NINCOMBO
RADISON - WIS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following letter will explain why I have been compelled to have recourse to this costly and laborious mode of addressing the Members of the Society of Arts, instead of using the pages of the Society's Journal, which hitherto have always been unreservedly open, even to the humblest Member of the Society.

On the 11th instant I made a respectful application to the Council, through the Secretary, to be permitted to publish a statement in the Journal, with a view to justify to the Members of the Society the steps I had taken with reference to the proceedings of the Council. To this request I received the following reply :—

SOCIETY OF ARTS, ADELPHI, LONDON,
NOVEMBER 12, 1857.

SIR,

Your request made to the Council through the Secretary to be allowed to insert in the Society's Journal a letter, explanatory of your resignation, has been submitted to the Council, and I am directed to transmit to you in reply the following resolution of Council :—

"That while the Council has no desire to prevent Dr. Booth from publishing, in the Society's journal, such an explanation of his opinions as he may think calculated to justify him before the public for ceasing to take any part in promoting the measures which the Council adopts, it is the duty of the Council to take care that the Journal shall contain nothing which may tend to the injury of any of those great interests which the Society promotes; and that, therefore, Dr. Booth must submit to the Council for previous approval the manuscript of any document which he wishes to appear in the Journal."

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
CHARLES CRITCHETT,
Assistant Secretary.

The Rev. Dr. BOOTH, F.R.S.,
The Vicarage, Wandsworth.

As I am not prepared to submit the "manuscript of any document" containing an "explanation of my opinions" to a *Sensorship*, I am driven to this expensive mode of publication.

The Vicarage, Wandsworth, Nov. 28, 1857.

J. BOOTH.

A LETTER

TO THE

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

GENTLEMEN,

It is to me a source of unfeigned regret that I should be compelled to differ thus widely from gentlemen, with all of whom I have lived on friendly terms for several years, from none of whom, however much or frequently I might oppose their views, have I received aught but courtesy (with, perhaps, one exception), and for most of whom I shall continue to feel sentiments of respect. But I must deal with their collective acts as those of the Council of the Society of Arts.

ALL societies and institutions that are intended by their founders to contribute for lengthened periods of time to the well-being of the nation, should exhibit in their plans and operations a high degree of flexibility, so as to meet the ever-varying conditions of social progress. The sentiment of the poet—"The old order changeth, yielding place to new"—holds good in all departments of human

action, and unless corresponding changes are made in the plans of institutions of any standing in point of time, they run the risk of becoming antiquated and obsolete, and of turning out as useless after the lapse of one or two generations, as they were beneficial in their original working. On the other hand, their present vitality is proved, their future utility is provided for, by adopting every improvement in organisation, and prudently embracing and actively working out every well-conceived system for the purpose of attaining those ends at which a previous age aimed, by plans formed in accordance with its light and intelligence, and adapted to the circumstances of its times.

Now, any one who compares the relation that existed during the latter half of the last century between the "Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce" of the United Kingdom, on the one hand, and the Legislature on the other, with the present state of matters, cannot fail to be struck with one great difference between the two periods. At the former date the principles of a restrictive commercial system predominated in the Legislature, and were enforced by its enactments. When Adam Smith published his "Wealth of Nations"—twenty-two years after the foundation of the Society of Arts—the exportation of machines and engines used in the chief manufactures of the country was prohibited under heavy penalties; even the master of the vessel that carried away the machinery was liable to a fine of £200. At the same time, all persons convicted of enticing any artificer in any of the manufactures of Great Britain to go into foreign parts to practise or teach his trade, were

punished by fine and imprisonment ; and skilled artizans who continued to exercise their calling abroad after due warning from the British Government, became aliens and outlaws, forfeiting all their property to the Crown. Such a policy, it was generally imagined at that time, although some few protested against it, was best calculated to promote the interests of the nation. But we now live under the *regime* of Free Trade ; the old restrictive policy has been thrown overboard, and the increasing and rapid intercourse between distant lands soon renders the newest inventions and discoveries the common property of all nations. It is, therefore, to the intellectual and moral character of the great mass of the people that we must look for the maintenance of the high position we have attained in the industrial world, and of the political pre-eminence which accompanies superior material wealth, and not to any direct encouragement or protection that we can confer on arts, manufactures, and commerce. It is this latter only that I have ever questioned.

Again, many of those functions which were peculiar to the Society of Arts at its first establishment, have ceased to belong to it. The Royal Academy has taken painting out of its hands. The Royal Agricultural Society encourages agriculture, so long one of the chief fields of action of the Society of Arts. The same may be said of horticulture ; this need is supplied by the Horticultural Society. In the same way the Institution of Civil Engineers inquires into the merits of mechanical inventions. One of the earliest and most cherished departments of the Society, and one on which it always has bestowed a peculiar attention, is the art of drawing. Throughout

the transactions of the Society we shall, almost in every page, find proof of the great attention which was given to the cultivation of the art of drawing—prizes, medals, and rewards everywhere meet the eye. The labours of the Society in this direction are for the future saved by the Department of Science and Art, which has made ample provision, supplied by the funds of the State, for the encouragement of skilful manipulation in the various divisions of practical Art, as it has been called.

One of the earliest duties which the Society of Arts laboured to discharge, and which very recently it has again taken up, is the improvement of education as a means of cultivating the intelligence that is brought to bear on the transactions of commerce.*

It was the neglect of the above law of progress that some twelve or fourteen years ago had nearly terminated the existence of the Society of Arts. Having performed the work for which it had been established, the Society of Arts was gradually dying out in its sombre old house in the Adelphi, in a state of insolvent imbecility and babbling decrepitude. In fact a

* "In the year 1783, the society, considering the education of youth a matter of the utmost importance, and reflecting on the great length of time usually employed in the study of languages, offered the following premiums:—

To the Masters of Academies or Schools teaching Languages.

"Whereas it has been observed that the living languages, or languages spoken in schools, are much sooner acquired than the dead languages, which are only taught grammatically:

"The society, desirous to improve the present mode of education, hereby offers the gold medal to the master of any academy or school for boys, situated within or not more than thirty miles distant from

meeting was called, or was about to be called, to consider the propriety of putting an end to the society, when Mr. T. Webster, I believe, hit upon the happy idea to found a new society under the old name, and to establish it in the old familiar locality. From that day the society has grown in strength and usefulness. The Great Exhibition may be taken as one of the first-fruits of this altered state of things. But it was soon taken out of the hands of the society, and when an ascertained surplus of nearly £200,000 proved its triumphant success, although large sums were bestowed on private persons (no doubt well earned), yet not a shilling was appropriated to the Society of Arts, which was then, and is now more than ever, in need of a Building fund.

The came the Indian Exhibition, which proved a failure:

Next in order is the Educational Exhibition, displayed in St. Martin's Hall, in the autumn of 1854, due to Mr.

London, who shall, within three years from the date of this advertisement, teach the greatest number of scholars, not less than four, to write and to speak Latin in common conversation correctly and fluently:

"Also, the gold medal for teaching in like manner each of the following languages; namely, the German, the Spanish, and the Italian, being commercial languages not usually taught at schools in England.

"The masters who propose being candidates for the above premiums are to send notice of their intention to claim them, at the Society's house in the Adelphi, on or before the second Tuesday November, 1786; soon after which the society will appoint a day for examining the young gentlemen, and for adjudging the said claims." — *Transactions of the Society of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce*, vol. v. p. 111.

Chester, superintended by him, and worked out under his management. This exhibition, although the value of the principle involved may freely be granted, was a great financial failure, as far as the Society of Arts is concerned. On its close it was immediately transferred to the Department of Science and Art. No compensation was asked by the Society, nor offered by the Government.

The Trade Museum. This Museum was collected at the joint expense of the Society of Arts and the Commissioners of the Great Exhibition. Mr. Solly, whose talents and great information in this as well as many other departments of natural knowledge are well known, was employed to make the collection. He succeeded in bringing together very admirable series of specimens, through the popularity of the Society of Arts, and his own zealous exertions. This collection, when completed, was also transferred to the premises of the Department of Science and Art at South Kensington, and is now there exhibited to the public.

It is proper to mention, that the Society's expenditure on this Museum was refunded by the Royal Commissioners.

The Economic Museum, got up by Mr. Twining, one of the Vice-Presidents, with the sanction of the Council, but at his own cost, has also been transferred to the spacious premises of the Department of Science and Art, at South Kensington.

Other minor Exhibitions I pass over.

My view, in drawing attention to these particulars, is to show that the Society of Arts must no longer look forward to "holding Exhibitions" as one of the objects it must continue to keep before it. That duty will, for

the future, be far more efficiently discharged by the Museums at South Kensington. It is not to be expected that inventors will send specimens of their manufactures, or models of their machinery, for a few weeks' show in the little, low, dark, badly-ventilated Exhibition room of the Society of Arts, when they may have unlimited space and unlimited time in the splendid, airy, well-lighted, and well ventilated Museums at South Kensington, with an assured attendance of some five or six thousand persons every week (over eight thousand last week). While the attractions of these Museums are thus increasing every week under the energetic superintendence of Mr. Cole, with a large amount of public money at his disposal, what can the Council of the Society of Arts offer as an equivalent attraction?

Surely the Society of Arts, with its large list of members, its Institutions, its revenues, its *prestige*, and its popularity should no longer hesitate as to the position it ought to take in the face of the country. Is it to be a kind of Government pioneer-society? a sort of official bolting sieve, which is to allow the flour to pass away but to retain all the bran? If so, let it be so understood; but if the members are determined that this state of things shall last no longer, that the Society shall stand, like any other similar society, on its own merits, supported by its own revenues, pursuing its own objects, and extending its influences in every direction, embracing those subjects which its members are competent and willing to deal with, I mean those questions discussed at the evening meetings—in one short phrase, the “social sciences”—then one may look forward with

hope to see many a useful work accomplished by the Society of Arts.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

The state of a society's income and the rate of its annual increase are popular and easy tests of its standing in public estimation, of the sympathy that is felt for the work in which it is engaged, and of the general opinion as to the way in which that society is doing its work. As there is no absolute standard of the prosperity of such societies, let the income of the Society of Arts for the last three years be compared with that of the Royal Society, the first society of its kind in England, if not in the world.

Receipts of the Royal Society for the years ending Nov. 30 :—				Receipts* of the Society of Arts for the years ending May 31 :—			
1854	£2,969	16	9	1855	£3,125	9	10
1855	3,046	1	3	1856	3,649	17	10
1856	2,922	7	1	1857	4,016	9	1

Thus showing that the income of the Society of Arts last year exceeded that of the Royal Society by no less

* The income of the Society of Arts is copied from the printed balance-sheets in the Journal, and no account is taken of overdue subscriptions or arrears, or of sums specially appropriated. The figures represent cash actually received.

than £1,094 2s. 1d., or nearly eleven hundred pounds! and its own income in 1855 by no less than £890 19s. 3d., or nearly nine hundred pounds, a sum more than one-fifth of the whole income of the society.

This financial prosperity has enabled the Council to pay off the greater portion of its mortgage debt (only £250 now remaining due), and to spend their funds in a way of which some may doubt the propriety. It should never be lost sight of that the income of the Society is held in trust by the Council for the promotion of the public and permanent objects of the Society and with an income exceeding £4,000 a-year much public good ought to be accomplished.

* Thus, the cost of the two "Conversazioni" last winter, at which tea and coffee were the only refreshments, was £155 10s. 3d., while a Soirée, given last June by the Royal Society at Burlington House, the refreshments being wine, tea, and coffee, cost only £28, or, if we omit the wine, the cost would be under £20.

The Council voted, on the 23rd of July, 1856, a Committee for painting and cleaning the Society's house, and for lighting and freestone tilating the great room, with power to expend a sum not exceeding £100."

In the balance-sheet of last June appears this item:

"By repairs and alterations" . . . £226 10s. 2d.

Expended this session . . . £27 9s. 9d.

"Journal Expenses" . . . £226 10s. 2d.

Now there is no authority for exceeding this vote of £100 by upwards of £300, and the propriety of the expenditure may be questioned; for the Society's lease will expire in a few years, and a renewal of it has been refused to the Council by the ground landlords.

THE "JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS."

In August, 1852, I presented a Memorial to the Council (not being then a member of that body), of which the following are the commencing and concluding paragraphs:—

"I desire to lay before the Council, with much deference, the reasons which lead me to conclude that the Society of Arts has now reached that position when its further progress may most materially be accelerated by the establishment of a stamped public Journal, in union with the Society. * * * * Such are the grounds on which I would impress on the Council the importance of this question, and suggest the appointment of a Select Committee, whose duty it should be to enquire whether it would be for the permanent interest of the Society to establish a public stamped Journal, and who should also investigate its probable expenses, management, and any other points which to them might appear to bear upon the subject."

The Committee was granted, and reported favourably of the project. The first number of the present "Journal of the Society of Arts" appeared on the 24th of November, 1852, and it has been continued as a weekly publication ever since. I have always maintained that the Journal falls far short of the standard to which, with so wide a circulation, it ought to be brought up, and its cost to the Society has always been a subject of complaint. In every Session, I believe, since its establishment, a "Journal Committee" has been appointed to consider the question, but without any practical result. Several members of the Council have taken up the subject from time to time, but without success. Last Session a Committee was appointed, and a report agreed on by three Members of the Committee, but not presented,

owing to the opposition of a fourth. The chief feature of this report was a recommendation to appoint a paid responsible Editor, whose sole duty should be the editorial management of the Journal, under the control of the Council. The cost of the Journal, during the last four years, *exclusive* of editorial supervision, has been, in

1854	£903 6 9
1855	879 14 9
1856	904 19 7
1857	854 14 6

or £3,542 15s. 7d. for four years, being an average annual cost of £885 13s. 1d., or £17 0s. 7d. per week.* The printer receives, besides, the proceeds of the weekly sales.

Having felt that the passive resistance existing somewhere was not to be overcome, I determined to investigate the subject for myself, and by myself. From newspaper owners, editors, and printers I received much valuable information, cheerfully given. Without entering into further details, I obtained, amongst others, from a respectable publishing house in the City, the following proposal to print and publish the Society's Journal :—

“September 4, 1857.

“SIR,—We hereby propose to the Council of the Society of Arts to print and supply their weekly paper as follows :—

“1. The size to be demy 4to., similar to the specimen furnished

* The cost of the Journal since its commencement, for the four years and a half ending the 31st of May, 1857, is £4,118 14s. 6d.

to the [size and type of the "Athenæum"], and the paper equal to the sample sent herewith, 50lb per ream; and the type to be Non-Pariel, Minion, and Brevier.

"2. The number of pages to be twelve, exclusive of advertisements, so that the whole number in the year shall not exceed 624. 2,200 copies to be put in neat printed wrappers, directed, postage paid, or delivered to their several destinations; and fifty copies to be supplied to the Society.

"4. To fit up an office on our premises for the use of the Sub-Editor, where the business of the Journal should be conducted, and upon the following terms:—

"(A) Provided that the Society pay to us the net sum of 520 guineas per annum, corrections and alterations included.

"(B.) That the Society pay a competent responsible Editor, who shall be bound to give the whole, or the greater part, of his time to the management of the Journal. [This proviso we consider essentially necessary to secure the success of the paper, by giving it a thorough supervision, and a scientific, educational, and literary character.]

"(C.) That the Advertisements be our property.

"(D.) That we receive the entire proceeds from sales, over and above those supplied to the Society.

"(E.) That this agreement shall be binding for 12 months, from , terminable by one month's notice by either party.

"MEM.—Unexceptionable references will be given, or securities to any amount required, for the due discharge of the contract.

"(Signed) _____

"To the Chairman of the Council of the Society of Arts."

Now, here is an offer to print, publish, and circulate the Society's Journal—twelve 4to. pages and three columns, instead of twelve 8vo. pages, with two columns—for a fixed net sum smaller than the average that the Society is now paying by no less than £339 13s. 11d. a year.

Will the Council accept this offer? I much fear they will not. Some persons desire to keep the Journal the flat and feeble thing it is. If we except the reports of the evening meetings during the Session (not quite half the year), what is the Journal but a receptacle for cuttings from stale newspapers and forgotten periodicals? The "Journal of the Society of Arts," with its large circulation, ought to be a vigorous and racy periodical, containing the earliest and most authentic information on matters connected with social science and the arts, and be the recognised medium for their discussion.

*A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN AND
PROGRESS OF THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM IN
THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.*

Ten years ago (October, 1847), I published a pamphlet that has recently excited some attention, under the title "Examination the Province of the State," in which I advocated examinations, certificates, and Government appointments, as the most effectual means of stimulating national education. The pamphlet, which was but little noticed at the time, was the result of much patient thinking on my part, and I had worked out the details with considerable care. As a proof of this, I may mention that though I have had two years' experience in getting the examinations of the Society of Arts into practical working order, I have but little to alter, and less to add to what I had then written. I have been twitted with the title of my pamphlet, "Examination,

the Province of the State," but I may plead as my apology that, living at the time (October 1847) in a remote provincial town, I held in the most profound veneration the wisdom, capacity, and energy of those permanent officials by whom the Government offices of this country are conducted. But a nearer acquaintance with some of them, and the events of the last few years, have very much modified that impression.

The following brief chronological sketch, compiled from the pages of the Journal, will give a somewhat clearer notion of the progress of the Examination question in the Society than any mere general statement.

In April, 1852, the late Chairman became a Member of the Society of Arts, having accidentally heard that a project was in contemplation to bring all the Mechanics' Institutions of the Kingdom into union with the Society of Arts.

May 18, 1852.—A large Meeting was held in the Society's House, the Marquis of Lansdowne in the chair, attended by several noblemen, Members of Parliament, and Delegates from 150 Mechanics' Institutions. At this Meeting it was laid down by Mr. Chester, as a fundamental condition of union—

"That the pecuniary conditions of union should be calculated to protect the Society from loss, and to afford to the Institutions the full value they may make to the Society's funds."

Mr. Chester proceeded to explain this resolution by saying "that the gain which the Society of Arts may derive from the proposed union, shall be simply an in-

direct gain in the increase of its Members." If this be so, the Society of Arts would appear to be merely the *trustee* and not the owner of the funds subscribed by the Institutions. At this Meeting, while the several speakers dwelt on the advantages of "Good Lectures," "Scientific Lectures," "Cheap Lectures," "Apparatus," there is not to be found the smallest reference to class-teaching or to Examinations. In Mr. Chester's letter to the Society of Arts, dated Nov. 28, 1851, he shows how the union he contemplates might be made useful in "Improving the Dwellings of the Poor," "Sanitary Measures," in discussing the "Laws of Partnership," "Bankruptcy," of "Patents," of "Master and Servants," &c.; how it might form "an extensive Staff of Lecturers," "collect Diagrams," "supply Institutions with Lecturers."

November 24, 1852.—The first number of the "Journal of the Society of Arts" published.

Jan. 19, 1853.—Appointment of the Committee on Industrial Instruction. The Council resolved,—

"To appoint a Committee to take into consideration and to report how far and in what manner, the Society of Arts may aid in the promotion of such an education of the people as shall lead to a more general and systematic cultivation of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce—the chartered objects of the Society."

This Committee issued circulars to all the "Grammar Schools," "Mechanics' Institutions," "friends of education," and "leading manufacturers in the country." In reply they received a large mass of evidence—upwards of 600 communications. A selection from these

was published in an appendix to the report of that Committee, presented to the Council the 26th of April, 1853, and published the 24th of June, 1853, under the title of "Report on Industrial Instruction." It is no breach of confidence, now to say, that the whole of that evidence was analyzed, and the entire report written by the late Chairman, with the exception of the last two paragraphs, pp. 69, 70, in which reference is made to the "Department of Science and Art." These were written by a Member of the present Council.

In this report the subject of Examination is for the first time, and prominently, brought before the Society. (See pages 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 69, &c.) In fact, several paragraphs of that report are mere reprints of the late Chairman's original pamphlet. The entire of p. 47 for example.*

† June 6, 1853.—Mr. Chester presented a report to the assembled delegates of the Institutions, in which he states that—

"The subject of lectures has occupied the continued and anxious consideration of the 'Committee.' It is one of extreme difficulty, but they feel unabated confidence that time and experience will enable the Society to obtain important benefits for the union in this respect." * * * *

"Through another Committee of the Society the attention of the Institutions in union has been drawn to the important subject of Industrial Instruction."

But not a word about Examinations.

‡ July 20, 1853.—The Council passed a long resolu-

* An outline of this report is printed in the Journal of the Society of Arts, vol. 1, p. 429.

† Journal of the Society of Arts, vol. 1, p. 341.

‡ Journal of the Society of Arts, vol. 1, p. 425.

tion, virtually giving up Mr. Chester's Lecture Scheme, which had been upwards of a year under consideration, and the Institutions are recommended to help themselves.

* November 18, 1853.—Mr. Chester, as Chairman of Council, delivered his inaugural address. In it, having given a concise history of the early proceedings of the Society, he states simply "that the Council will continue to develop the union of Institutions," but he omits to say how, or by what measures. For the first time he makes public reference to Examinations, Certificates, and Prizes.

April 7, 1854.—Mr. Chester's Scheme of Examination published in the Journal.† The "Declaration", so numerously signed two years afterwards, was now given to the public.

July 4, 1854.—The third annual Conference held. Mr. Chester's Scheme of Examination again published. Candidates were required to send in their names to the Secretary in order that papers might be sent to them, set in the "Mathematical Sciences," the "Experimental Sciences," the "Sciences of Observation," "Mechanical Sciences," "Social Sciences," "Fine Arts," "Moral and Metaphysical Sciences," "Literature"—rather a wide list of subjects for the guidance of young men attending the classes at Mechanics' Institutions.

Nothing can more clearly show the vagueness and crudeness of the scheme, and its entire unfitness for practical working, than this invitation to artizans to

* Journal of the Society of Arts, vol. 2, p. 5.

† Journal of the Society of Arts, vol. 2, p. 347.

send for examination-papers in "Mathematics," or the "Sciences of Observation," without giving them a glimmering of an idea as to the nature of the examination, the limits within which it would be taken, the text-books that should be consulted, &c.

November 15, 1854.—Lord Ebrington, Chairman of the Council, in the customary address from the Chairman at the opening of the Session, made the following observations, which clearly show that the credit, such as it is, of originating the examinations in the Society was not due to Mr. Chester :—

* "For this purpose [to supply incentives to exertion] some system of Examination was clearly necessary. Most who hear me will remember the admirable report with its valuable appendices, which emanated from the Committee of the Society upon Industrial Instruction last year. Having in that report so clearly had pointed to them what was wanting in the way of education in the country, it became the duty of the Council to consider what could be done. They determined accordingly to endeavour to procure a number of persons, whose names would be a guarantee for their pre-eminent fitness for the task, to consent to act as Examiners into the proficiency acquired in different branches of knowledge by Members of the different Institutions in union with the Society of Arts. The eminent men thus appealed to, several of them being of European celebrity, with a kindness, liberality, and self-devotion, which I am sure will be appreciated by their countrymen, at once undertook this great and laborious public service."

Here the matter may now be permitted to rest.

† February 7, 1855.—The Secretary published a notice in the Journal to the Institutions in union, to

° Journal of the Society of Arts, vol. 3, p. 2.

† Journal of the Society of Arts, vol. 3, p. 207.

remind them that the time for the proposed Examination was drawing near, and that "the Council is making preparations for conducting these Examinations during next month."

The preparations were superfluous, for no candidates came. This is not strictly correct; one candidate requested to be examined in "Mathematics," who, when he came up for examination, a year-and-a-half afterwards, was plucked in arithmetic.

July 6, 1855.—The fourth annual conference was held; Lord Ebrington in the chair.

"The Hon. and Rev. J. Best said, 'It appeared to him that the question of Examinations during the past year had been treated rather mildly in the [Secretary's] report. The gist of the matter rested in this. If the Declaration were signed by the great firms and by the railway companies, or by Government, it would at once attach a money value to a successful Examination.'"

"Dr. Booth said, 'He knew their noble Chairman took great pains in endeavouring to obtain signatures to the Declaration, but without success.'"

November 23, 1855.—Dr. Booth, as Chairman of Council, delivered the opening address.* In this, the question of examinations is fully discussed, and a pledge given on behalf of the Council that a serious attempt would be made to grapple with the difficulties inherent in the subject. But notwithstanding this, such were the difficulties thrown in the way by certain members of the Council, that, after three months' fruitless discussion, it became necessary to call a public meeting of the representatives of the Institutions in union. This meeting

* Journal of the Society of Arts, vol. 4, p.

was held on the 18th of January, 1856, and so decided was the expression of opinion on the part of the meeting in favour of the Chairman's views, that the opposition to them in the Council was effectually quelled for a time, and a notice of the Examinations to be held at the Society's house in the following June was published in the Journal of the ensuing week.

From this time until the Examinations were held the following June, at the Society's House in the Adelphi, the office afforded a hearty co-operation, and gave much assistance, particularly through Mr. Forrest, the late Assistant-Secretary, whose energy and zeal were deserving of the highest commendation.

In the autumn of 1856, it was proposed by the Board of Examiners to have four centres of Examination in 1857, but owing to Mr. Chester's attempt to commit the Council and Board to an indefinite number of centres, Huddersfield alone was selected.

February, 1857. Since the retirement of the late Assistant Secretary, and the appointment of his successor, the reluctance of the office to give any hearty co-operation became so apparent to the late Chairman that he was forced to address the following letter to the secretary, Mr. Foster :—

SOCIETY OF ARTS, ADELPHI,
6TH FEBRUARY, 1857.

MY DEAR FOSTER,

* * * * *

Perhaps, as I am now on this subject, I may as well express candidly, without any further reserve or delicacy carried too far for the interests of truth, the impression that has gradually grown up in

my mind into a thorough conviction since the opening of the present session. It is this: that I get no hearty support or cordial co-operation in the office. I grant there is no active opposition, but there is what is far more effectual, passive resistance. Now this state of things cannot be permitted to continue. If the Society of Arts is prepared to carry out the system of Examinations it must be worked in a very different manner from any that I have as yet seen.

I am much understating the case when I say that during the last twelve months I have laboured at the business of the Society of Arts as hard as any one of its officials. In fact, I may say I am working single-handed. This is not fair. The Council do not desire it, and the Society will not endure it. So long as I have the support of the Council, and the measure I am engaged in promoting receives the approbation of the Society of Arts, of the Institutions in union, of the public press, and of the country at large, I will not permit any obstacles arising from coldness, apathy, indifference, and want of energy, to stand in the way of the full development of a measure on whose success I have set my heart.

Believe me, ever faithfully yours,

P. LE NEVE FOSTER, Esq.

&c., &c.

This letter was met by a general denial on the part of the Secretary; and the late Chairman is bound to add that up to the Huddersfield distribution of prizes (July 29, 1857), he received much assistance from the Secretary. Still, however, the whole matter appeared to him in so unsatisfactory a position, that he determined, if possible, to obtain a separate organization for the Institutions and their work. With this view he proposed the following resolution at the meeting of Council convened for its discussion on the 6th of November:—

That the Subscriptions received from the Mechanics' and other Institutions in union with the Society of Arts, either directly or indirectly through their Presidents or other officers, be from this

present Michaelmas set apart from the ordinary income of this Society, and be called the "Institution Fund." That all necessary expenses incurred in the management and organization of the Examinations, or other measures for the benefit of the Mechanics' Institutions, be defrayed out of this Fund. That a Committee, selected from the Council and Board of Examiners, be charged with the administration of it; and that a detailed audited account of the income and expenditure be published annually, in November, and furnished to every Institution in union.

Now he could not anticipate such violent opposition to his motion. He knew the majority of the Council were sick of the whole thing, as there are not in fact more than four or five members of the Council who take any interest in the examinations *per se*, and of this no better proof need be given than that at the meeting of Council, on the 30th of September, it was moved and seconded "that there be but one centre of Examination (Birmingham) out of London for the year 1858," instead of four. This resolution was not put, owing to the strong remonstrance of the late Chairman, and his objection to it on a point of order.

He could not therefore anticipate such an opposition, especially as the balance sheet of the society (June, 1857) contained an item which professed to show that no less than £820* was expended on the union of Institutes. With a view to get rid of the late Chairman at any price,

* *Extract from the Society's Balance Sheet, May 31, 1857.*—"Union of Institutions, including Journal Lecture List, Examinations, Dr. Booth's Lectures, Postage, Stationary, Printing, and other charges, £819 15s. 4½d." A portion of the Assistant Secretary's salary, £195, will be found under the unobtrusive title "other charges."

Mr. Chester's scheme, which had been repeatedly condemned, not only by the Board of Examiners, but by the Council, was revived. The following letter from a member of the Council, addressed to him in a "friendly way," with a view to coax him to resign the chairmanship quietly, will prove this:—

MY DEAR SIR,

October 28, 1857.

I sincerely regret that various incidents have occurred tending to render less agreeable your position with regard to your colleagues in the Council and to the Society's officers, and if I might venture to offer you the advice of a friend, I would suggest your vacating at once the Chairmanship on the plea of the obstacles thrown in the way of your Examination scheme by the resuscitation of that of Mr. Chester.

I remain, &c.

*THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF
COUNCIL.—Mr. C. W. DILKE.*

In going through the wide range and manifold variety of subjects which the present Chairman has noted as awaiting the action of the Council and the Society during the forthcoming session, the question involuntarily arises, How is it that during so many past sessions the energies of the Council have lain dormant—how is it that their action has been so paralysed? One might, in the simplicity of his ignorance, be tempted to ask, What is the reason, while one fraction of the Council, aided by the Board of Examiners, has been engaged in working out the Examinations, that the other, and as recent facts show, the more powerful section of the Council, failed to take any action whatever with regard to the investigation and discussion of those matters, most of which are stock subjects among the Society's *desiderata*?

It would be a very curious and instructive return (were any member of the Society to move for it and obtain it) that of all the Committees (excluding those bearing on Institutes, Examinations, and Education) which have been moved for at the Council during the last five years, the names of the movers, the objects of the Committees, and their final reports.

Such a return would be a very curious document, because it would show the Society who they are who do its work; I do not call that work, the mere casual attendance on a Wednesday at the Council, for an hour or so before the commencement of the evening meeting. It would be also instructive, for it would show how often our highest aspirations end in talk, and fall far short of action.

It would also explain why the late Chairman would appear to have given offence to the Council, by his observation that *his* chief interest lay in promoting the education movement in the Society, and that he did not see why the popular principle of the division of labour might not be applied with advantage to the business of the Society of Arts.

I shall now proceed to answer briefly, distinctly, and conclusively, as I hope to show, the various charges that have been brought against me by the Council.

In the Chairman's address, it is said that he (Dr. Booth) had, in public speeches in different parts of the country, and in published letters during the vacation, led the public to expect that the Society was about to do what the Council had decided not to do, and more than that, did not think right or expedient, or even

possible, to be done [holding examinations at certain provincial towns.]

Now, would not any one imagine, reading this, that I had unwarrantably committed the Council "to what they had decided not to do," to what they did not think it "right" or "expedient" or even "possible" to be done? This is strong language. Now, hear my reply.

A report having got abroad, in February last, shortly after the appointment of the Right Hon. William Cowper to the office of Vice-President of the Committee of Privy Council on Education, that the Department of Science and Art had prepared a scheme of Examinations to be offered to the Mechanics' Institutions of the kingdom, it was thought desirable that the Vice-President of this department should be put in official possession of what the Society of Arts had done in this way, and what they proposed further to accomplish. Accordingly the Secretary was instructed by the Council to ask the Vice-President to receive a deputation from the Council. The Vice-President at once complied with the request, and the deputation* waited on him in Downing Street on the 16th. of February last.

* EXAMINATIONS.—A deputation from the Council of the Society of Arts, consisting of Colonel Sykes, F.R.S. (*Chairman*), Mr. F. Bennoch, the Rev. Dr. Booth, F.R.S., Mr. C. Wentworth Dilke V.P., Dr. Stenhouse, F.R.S., Mr. Winkworth, and Mr. Le Neve Foster (*Secretary*), had an interview with the Right Hon. William Cowper at the Privy Council Office, on Monday last, in reference to the Examinations established by the Society of Arts.—*Journal of the Society of Arts*, No. 222, vol. V., p. 205.

At this interview, Col. Sykes, the Chairman, fully explained what the Society of Arts had done, and what they proposed to do in the following and successive years. A coloured map of England was handed in to the Vice-President, in which the country was "shaded" out into twelve or fourteen "Examination districts," in each of which two "centres" being alternately taken every year, a considerable number of centres might be thus provided. It was at the same time distinctly mentioned that the Council did not contemplate undertaking so large a work at once, that they proposed to develop the scheme gradually, &c., &c.

The Vice-President requested that the map might be left with him, and the deputation then retired.

But this is not all. The President and Council of the Royal Society having presented a Memorial to Lord Palmerston, containing some recommendations which it was thought, if adopted, would materially interfere with the relation existing between the Society of Arts and the Institutions in union, it was resolved by the Council that a Memorial be at once prepared, and presented to Lord Palmerston, not from the Council, but from the Society of Arts; and that Lord Palmerston be respectfully requested to receive a deputation from the Society of Arts. His Lordship at once acceded to the request, and the deputation* was received at Cambridge House on the 11th of

* DEPUTATION TO LORD PALMERSTON.—A deputation from the Society of Arts had an interview with Lord Palmerston on Wednesday, at Cambridge House, to present the subjoined Memorial in reference to the Society's examinations. The deputation consisted of the following gentlemen:—Colonel Sykes, F.R.S. (*Chairman of the*

March last, when Colonel Sykes (the Chairman) introduced the deputation, explained its object, and read the Memorial which had been previously drawn up, printed, and subjected to the revision of every member of the Council. Amongst other things it was stated by several members of the deputation that the Government could very materially assist the work in which the Society was engaged by placing at the disposal of the Council "nominations to compete" for appointments in the public offices. The claims of the Society of Arts to such public recognition were pressed on Lord Palmerston's notice, as being founded on the following grounds stated in the Memorial : —

The Society of Arts, so far as the funds at its disposal will allow, proposes to develop its scheme of Examinations until, taking advantage of railway facilities, the local centres of examination shall be so far multiplied as to bring the advantages of the system easily within the reach of all. * * * * As the sphere of the Society's operations is now rapidly expanding, since applications to hold periodical examinations, and to award certificates, have already been received from York, Birmingham, Huddersfield, Leeds, Nottingham, Salisbury, and other provincial centres, they further pray that the Society of Arts may so far be recognised by the Government, and placed in such a position as will enable its Council to make

Council); the Rev. Dr. Booth, F.R.S. (*Treasurer*); the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor; William Brown, M.P.; Frederick North, M.P.; Benjamin Oliveira, M.P., F.R.S.; Francis Bennoch; C. Wentworth Dilke (*Vice-President*); Rev. William Elliott; Joseph Glynn, F.R.S.; Peter Graham; T. Twining, Jun. (*Vice-President*); G. Fergusson Wilson, F.R.S.; Thomas Winkworth; P. Le Neve Foster (*Secretary*); Charles Critchett (*Assistant Secretary*).—*Journal of the Society of Arts*, No. 225, Vol. V., p. 259.

satisfactory arrangements to develop its plan for the advancement of systematic instruction, by the help of periodical examination, so as to realise the expressed hope of a large majority of the Institutions of the kingdom, that the Society of Arts shall be authorised and empowered to carry out, for their benefit, to a national success, the great work of industrial instruction it has deliberately undertaken.

Now, will the Council of the Society of Arts dare to say, in the teeth of that Memorial, that they did not bind themselves to develop the Examinations, and not themselves only but the Society as well? Did they mean to deceive Lord Palmerston by an evasion? We must assume that they did not. And if they did not, they must have intended him to understand that they meant to accede to the prayer of those Provincial Institutions. I think it would not be easy to show how a public body could more tightly bind itself than our Council performed that operation for itself and for the Society of Arts.

It is quite true that in my lectures and public speeches in the provinces, I have always put the Council of the Society forward as doing this, deliberating upon that, and contriving something else. They got the credit, while I got the work; but I cared not, provided I could ensure the success of what I believe to be a great movement on behalf of Education. I have made myself out rather as a sort of agent, an organ, a mere mouth-piece of the Council. I did not put myself forward as battling against the most vexatious opposition, and struggling with obstacles of every kind. I did not care to let the world know what a "happy family" we were at home.

It is urged also, that I drew up the programme; that

it was sent to the Examiners in print; that, *before the Council saw it*, "copies had been sent by Dr Booth to several persons not of the Council, and that the title of Associate was likely to render those who should give, and those who should receive, such titles ridiculous."

Now what does all this in reality amount to? I appeal to the common sense of the members of the Society, and ask them how is business to be transacted, if some latitude be not given to those who conduct it? If a great measure is to be worked out to success, it must be left in a few hands—the fewer the better. While your deliberative body may be as large as you please, the executive cannot be too small.

How could a draft programme be drawn up at a Council table of twelve or fifteen persons, whom recent events have proved to be not the most harmonious in their views. It would have been a curious document that—the last result of the adverse views, the erroneous notions, and the conflicting opinions of such a body.

No; it was my duty, as Chairman of the Council, and still more as Chairman of the Board, to draw up the rough draught of the programme, and I did it. I wished, too, to avoid the delays of that worst form of Circumlocution office, a large number of unpaid irresponsible persons, ignorant of the subject they have to deal with, and adverse to its advancement. The course I followed was this:—I had the draft programme set up—64 pages, including titles of text-books, time-tables, subjects, &c. A copy was immediately sent to every member of the Council, and to every member of the Board, with a request

printed on the top of the title-page,* that suggestions and alterations might be sent in to the Secretary. They were sent in by many members of the Board, and adopted. It is also true that I sent copies of the programme to some eminent friends of education in the country. I confess that I did so, and more than this, I must also add, that if I were placed in the same position I should do the same thing again. What ! are the men who have devoted their time, their labour, and their money to the advancement of Mechanics' Institutions, and to the education of the people, to be ignored ? Are we not even to pay them the compliment of asking their opinions about matters in which they take so deep an interest ? Is our knowledge so great that we are above asking for information, ? Is our wisdom so profound that we need no advice ? I beg respectfully to tell the Council of the Society of Arts that they must not attempt to carry things with so high a hand. So heinous is my offence in the eyes of the Council, that they have branded the charge on the very page of the Journal in italics. "He let out a draft of the programme *before the Council saw it.*"

And now let me say a few words about the "Associates" and the "ridicule" it would cast upon the young men who should presume to think of such a thing. For the sake of conciliation, I withdrew the clause without discussion, but my opponents were not to be won over by concession. Now let us look at the thing broadly, and on its own merits.

* [Proof before correction, for the use of Members of the Council, and of the Board of Examiners only.]

You are requested to return this proof immediately, with any corrections you may suggest, to the Secretary of the Society of Arts.

Why should it be thought to render a young man "ridiculous" to be known as an "Associate" of the Society of Arts? It would be, to some extent at least, a proof that he had been industrious, and had endeavoured to improve himself. Is it not perfectly notorious that any man of average respectability may obtain admission as a member into any of the literary or scientific societies of London on payment of the usual fees? The Royal Society is the sole exception. We see grave, steady, middle-aged men of the world rejoice in attaching F.A.S., F.G.S., F.L.S., and other such like alphabetical honours to their names; yet, what do these letters in reality prove beyond the average respectability of those entitled to use them, and the payment of certain fees? Professor Owen or Professor Faraday, whose reputations are not only European but World-wide, may attach without "ridicule" a string of letters to their names as long as the tail of a paper-kite; but it would be exceedingly presumptuous, highly indecorous, "ridiculous" in John Nokes or Bill Styles to wish their townfolk to know how the big Society up in Lunnun had made much of the work they did of the long winter-evenings by the light of a farthing dip, when, instead of going to the pot-house or the wake, they thumbed their dirty books at home. What a violation of the proprieties! It is enough to make red tape blush a deeper red.

There are other matters, which I can only touch upon, having already far exceeded the limits within which I intended to confine my observations.

The Chairman states "that the meeting of the 6th of

November [that which suppressed the Board by the vote of seven members of the Council] being by adjournment, the special business for it was 'the further consideration of the programme.' "Any matter that the programme contained was properly before the meeting," "The Board of Examiners was a part of the programme"—"the meeting was, therefore, fully competent to deal with that subject," and *therefore* to suppress the Board, and abolish the bye-laws on which it was established! What conclusive argumentation—what lucid logic! So, because the ordinary business of the Society is before an ordinary meeting of the Council, and the general bye-laws of the Society refer to its ordinary business, any Council which finds itself in the humour may, off-hand, abolish the bye-laws. Such are the conclusions to which Councils' reasoning (?) would conduct us.

The text-books say, Logic is an art; one must regret to see that it is not among the arts cultivated by the Council of the Society of Arts.

But there is a graver matter still. Will it be believed by the members of the Society, that of the seven gentlemen who suppressed the Board of Examiners on that memorable 6th of November, no fewer than six* were actually present at a special meeting of the Council (February 4, 1857,) called to consider, with other matters, those very abrogated bye-laws. Not a single objection was raised to their passing through the Council by any one of these gentlemen. Nay, more than this. Mr. Chester handed me the printed slip across the table, at the same time

[* Mr. W. Hawes was not then a member of the Council..

saying, "I see nothing to object to in these bye-laws. I shall not oppose their passing." Yet they were illegal!—unconstitutional!!—a violation of the Charter! The Board of Examiners could not be endured an hour longer! No! not even for a special meeting of the Council! What sober wisdom guides, and judicious discretion tempers the proceedings of the Council of the Society of Arts! Early Greece took pride in her seven wise men; the Society of Arts may boast its Seven Sages as well?

The Chairman proceeds to say that the Council decided against *oral examination*, because of the "expense of sending out Boards of Examiners to great distances from London;" "the impossibility of procuring the services of so many Examiners of equal authority," and "the small extent to which even these five centres could supply the wants." Now, will it be credited that it was never contemplated to send out Boards of Examiners? That the oral examination, with a view to conciliate the Council, was reduced to arithmetic, English history, geography, Latin, French, and German (how an examiner is to decide on the merits of a candidate in either of these last two subjects without knowing whether he can speak or pronounce the language, the Council do not stop to explain,) and that the Board of Examiners had formally taken on themselves the responsibility of providing for the oral Examinations? Here is the Report:—

October 28th, 1857.

The Board of Examiners of the Society of Arts having been requested by the Council to consider and report to them the arrangements by which they propose to carry out the system of oral and paper Examination at the several proposed centres, as recommended

n the programme submitted by them to the Council, with a detailed estimate of the cost,

They now beg to report as follows :—

In the first place it becomes proper to state for the information of the Council, that the Board believe it to be advisable to secure the confidence of the public in the integrity of their decisions and awards, that every central Examination should be personally superintended by two or more Members of the Board. So entirely essential do they hold this condition to be, that they would feel it to be their duty to decline to inspect or to give credit to any papers otherwise worked out and submitted to them for examination.

I. As the Board propose that the Examinations shall extend over six consecutive days, nine hours each day, they believe that not less than two Examiners can fairly be expected to carry out a vigilant superintendence for 54 hours in one week.

II. With respect to the paper Examination, they have no alteration in their present plan to suggest further than to divide each paper into at least two sections of questions, an easier and a more difficult one, and that no candidate shall receive credit for more than 75 per cent. of the questions set.

III. With respect to the method of conducting the oral Examinations, the Board are of opinion, that while on the one hand it would lead to much expense to carry out an oral Examination in all the subjects in the programme, a thing which has not hitherto been done by the Board ; yet on the other hand, taking into account the peculiarities of those classes for whose benefit the Examinations were established, giving weight to the sentiments of those men whose experience entitles their views to the gravest consideration—believing also that the time is come when the subjects of oral Examination should be defined, they are of opinion that the difficulties in the case may be met by confining the oral Examination to the more elementary subjects, namely, arithmetic, history, geography, Latin, French, and German. That to secure uniformity in the oral Examination, and a means of comparing the results obtained at the different centres, printed lists of questions be prepared for the use of the Examiners ; and that with respect to the modern languages, the

plan so successfully carried out Huddersfield, under the directions of Dr. Bernays and Professor Mariette, be further developed.

IV. With regard to the cost of the Examinations for 1858, as the Board have no executive control over the expenditure for printing, books, stationery, &c., and as the railway charges are known and fixed, they believe the Council, advised if necessary by their officers, are more competent than the Board to form a correct opinion on the probable cost of the ensuing Examinations.

You will see that the Board proposed to send out two of their own number to each centre. So much for sending out Boards of Examiners.

Now, Mr. Chester has repeatedly brought this subject of oral Examination before the late Board of Examiners, and always with the same result. The last time he was in a minority of one to fifteen. Mr. Chester was opposed to oral Examination; the Board of Examiners were for it; the Council of the Society of Arts, who know so little about its merits or demerits, support Mr. Chester. Dr. Whewell, the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, takes a view somewhat different from that of the Council.* It

* On the subject of oral examinations, the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, writes :—

An examination conducted *visd voce*, the questions being asked and the answers returned by word of mouth, has several advantages over an examination on paper. One of the greatest advantages of these is its publicity. The questions and answers are heard by all who choose to hear, and there is a constant and ready means of learning the course taken by the examiners, and the character of the performances which are approved.

Again, the knowledge, quickness, and happiness of expression which are displayed by a student who passes a *visd voce* examination will draw to the proceeding a degree of sympathy which can never be given to a paper examination.

On all these accounts a public oral examination is a good instrument of education.

In this scheme (*paper examinations*) there is no opportunity of testing by questions such as the occasion and the preceding answers may suggest whether the written reply to the questions be really accompanied by any intelligent

may also be mentioned, the President of the Board of Control was so dissatisfied with the results of the purely paper Examinations, to which the candidates for appointments in the service of the East India Company were subjected, that he *compelled* the Examiners, after the first Examination, to introduce a mixed system of oral and paper Examinations.

And now, though I have much more to say, I will not trespass further on the attention of the members of the Society. Twice have the late Board of Examiners rendered their unpaid services to make the Examinations a success. For the last two years I have done my best to promote the advancement of what I believe to be a great and a good measure. I have lectured, I have spoken, I have written, I have travelled. Within the last two years I have visited, nearly always by invitation, the following places,—Basingstoke, Birmingham (2), Bristol, Cheltenham, Halifax, Hitchin, Huddersfield (4), Leeds (2), Lewes, Manchester (3), Middleborough, Nottingham, Richmond, Sheffield, Southampton, and Windsor. I have conducted a great portion of the correspondence which has arisen out of this movement. All the printed documents, whether issued in my own name or in that of the Council or in that of the Secretary, were drawn up by me. A good constitution, temperate habits, sound health,

thought in the mind of the *examinee*. And the answers of each person being unknown to his fellow-students, there is no public manifestation of the excellence which obtains success; which in a more open system of examination operates beneficially, by the example which it offers and the sympathy which it draws.—*Of a liberal Education*, by W. Whewell, D.D., Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, p. 139.

earnestness of purpose, and a determined will, have enabled me, with God's assistance, to carry the work up to the point at which it now stands, and where I leave it. I expected no pecuniary reward. Had that been my object, I could have devoted my time to less onerous, and it could not possibly be less profitable employment. Those gentlemen who stood aloof while I ploughed and digged and sowed the ground, and who probably would have ridiculed my efforts had they failed, are now prepared to enter into my labours, and to reap where they have not sown.

"Men like," as the *Times* said the other day in a splendid leader on the Indian heroes, "men like to see their own work when it is done, and we know they like to see it; we know that this is their chiefest and proudest reward, in comparison to which honours and decorations, stars, crosses, and ribands are tinsel, and therefore there is a touch of natural pity when those who have done or contributed largely to a great end die before they see it."

So I, too, but in my own humble way, shall regret to see the work on which I have laboured with the labour of love given over to hands familiar with failure—I shall grieve to hear of mistakes in details visited on the principle itself,—and I shall be prepared, at no distant time, to learn, that the whole measure, like so many of its predecessors, has passed away from the Society of Arts.

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**The SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
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 the Society's House, in the Adelphi.**

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